

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**
NOFORCOUNTRY East Germany REPORT
TOPIC Engineer Exercises in the Area of the First Gds Mecz Army 25X1EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1-DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 23 August 1955 25X1REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

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1. On 27 July 1955, the following observations were made in the area of the engineer training site south of Muehlberg north of Riesa:

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At about 1000, 15 to 20 trucks with TMP bows and middle sections were assembled some 2 km. northwest of Jacobsthal, east of the Kreinitz-Muehlberg road. The pontoon sections were already fitted with steel supports and beams. Groups each of 10 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets prepared landing places camouflaged by brushwood on the east and west bank of the Elbe river. Two M-3 armored personnel carriers were seen on the west bank and 1 crane truck, 1 truck, and 2 two-section pontoon ferries on the east bank.

2. Twelve trucks towing 12 x 122-mm field howitzers left Camp Zeithain (1901) within the framework of an exercise with which the preparations on the Elbe River were presumably connected. The howitzers were emplaced in a width of approximately 300 meters about 1.5 km. northeast of Camp Zeithain, pointing toward the camp.

3. At about 1230, 5 T-54 tanks, 2 M-3 armored personnel carriers, and four-seat sedan proceeded via Lichtensee and the training grounds, presumably toward the Elbe River. At the same time, an additional 6 T-54 tanks, 3 M-3 armored personnel carriers, and 1 repair-shop truck passed the "Haidehaeuser". This column came from the direction of Tiefenau and proceeded toward the Elbe River. Imprints of tracks indicated that this road had already previously been used by tracklaying vehicles, probably the unit which left the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne (1802) in Riesa on 25 July. The unit from Riesa crossed the Elbe River in the late afternoon and returned to the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne from the direction of Weida during the night. This was surmised from fresh imprints of tracks of T-54s which were observed in the early morning on 28 July.

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4. At about 1400 on 28 July, an amphibious vehicle of US-Ford make, [redacted] went from Riesa to the engineer training site south of Muehlberg. 1
5. Between 24 July and 6 August, the occupation of the barracks installations of the Grimma post changed continually. At short intervals, the units left for 1 to 4 days for the Pomssen-Otterwisch post training grounds.
6. The Nagema installation [redacted] was temporarily occupied by an engineer unit which practiced bridge construction over the Mulde River south of Grimma. The unit wore blue-bordered black epaulets. At 1600 on 27 July, the unit left the installation and was entrained at the Grimma Ostbahnhof. The shipment which included 20 three-axle trucks with pontoons, 1 truck towing a motorboat, and 1 additional truck left toward Gross-Bothen at 1700. 2
1. [redacted] Comment. The exercise which extended over the Zeithain training grounds from east to west [redacted] following units of the 9th Tank Div. from the Riesa post [redacted] of the 108th Tank Regt and the 216th (?) AAA Regt [redacted], the 286th Engr Bn. The departure of tanks and AA [redacted] the morning of 25 July was previously reported.
2. [redacted] Comment. The direction of departure of the engineer shipment tends to indicate that the practices on the Mulde River involved elements of the u/i Engr Regt of the First Gds Mecz Army from Dresden-Uebigau, which were temporarily stationed in the Nagema. [redacted] the loading of the 133d Gds Engr Bn of the 8th Gds Mecz Div. permanently quartered in the Elsner Kaserne (1401), in Grimma appears improbable. The Nagema adjoins the Elsner Kaserne to the south.

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